

FALLS CHURCH IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER: SMART LETS US IMPROVE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

CURRENT SWM SITUATION

COSTS OF SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RECOVERED FROM CITY'S GENERAL FUND

- * FY2008 costs: \$1.2M (\$368/household)
- * Cost recovery "invisible" to residents
- * Effect on individuals the same whether you generate one or twelve bags of trash; no economic incentive to reduce trash
- * Those with small volumes of trash subsidize those with large volumes
- * Some residents do not get city-provided service

THE SMART SOLUTION

- * SMART programs adopted by over 7,000 communities in USA
- * 25% of US population served by SMART system
- * SMART reduces Greenhouse Gas emissions
- * Does not lead to increased costs for average household

Source: EPA

SMART PROGRAM

UNBUNDLE COSTS AND ESTABLISH UNIT CHARGES PER HOUSEHOLD BASED ON VOLUME OF TRASH

- * Units of charge vary by city (e.g. by the bag, bin, or subscription)
- * Charges for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) services look like any other utility (e.g. electricity, gas, water)
- * The more trash you generate, the more you pay
- * Recycling provided at no charge

BENEFITS OF SMART

- * ENVIRONMENT
 - o Trash causes Greenhouse Gas emissions that contribute to climate change
- * ECONOMICS
 - o Less trash means reduced tipping fees
 - o Establishes incentive to select products with less packaging and to increase recycling
- * EQUITY
 - o Fairness to those who produce less trash
 - o City service can be expanded to more city residents

CURRENT STATUS

- * Concept included in City's Solid Waste Management Plan adopted in 2004
- * Environmental Services Council recently sent a Resolution to City Council recommending that SMART be adopted

NEXT STEPS

- * Needs support from the community in order to move forward
- * Further research by city staff needed to determine best rate plan for Falls Church
- * Please take a SWM educational flier home with you
- * Please take a moment to complete the provided SWM Evaluation Form
- * Please sign our petition
- * The ESC will be holding more community public forms and outreach seminars in the upcoming months
- * Additional information on the SMART system can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/tools/payt/index.htm>